

By H. R. SCHETTER, of HOWELL, MICHIGAN.

GENTLEMEN: Lieut. Porter very justly remarks that a man's lifetime is too short to enable him to deduce a theory from his own observations; and that he must therefore receive as facts the observations of those who have preceded him. But let me ask friend P., is the upheaval of the deserts and mountains he mentions among the observed facts, or only among the suppositions of our predecessors, adopted to account for the existing condition of our planet? Undoubtedly among the latter. As before observed, no person ever saw a mountain, a desert, or a large island upheaved from the bottom of the ocean's bed; and the theory of upheaval was adopted to account for the existing state of things as we see them. If Lieut. P. will please look again, he will find that I have pursued precisely the course he indicates; have taken the facts observed by my predecessors, instead of mine own; have shown that these facts (existing appearances or effects) are inconsistent with the cause by him and other geologists supposed to have produced those appearances; have assigned another cause, or series of causes, which is known to exist, and the effects of which are familiar to every philosophic mind, and which, it now appears to me, will account consistently for all the existing phenomena and appearances or conditions we behold on our globe.

I have only as yet discharged my blunder, much at random, but trying to avoid wounding a friend. My small arms still remain loaded, but not yet primed. In pointing the lance I have no experience; and larger implements of war would be dangerous only to myself, were I in the receipt of ammunition; they are safe only in the hands of those who are experienced in their use, and whose magazine is as well supplied with ammunition as friend Porter's. I did not suppose that Lieut. P. would adopt my theory; but had some hopes of receiving a "gallant" broadside, and was, and still am, waiting to witness a broad breach in my castle, with a determination, however, to defend it, even with my small arms, should occasion require.

My theory has no perceptible connexion with La Place's theory of nebulous condensation, only as the former assigns the same agency to the fitting up of planets for the habitation of sentient beings which the latter assigns to the formation of solar systems. I was not aware that La Place's theory had been so fully exploded as Lieut. P. asserts. Only a year or two since some of the members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science noticed it as confirmed by the discovery of Kirkwood's analogy. Probably I am not as well posted up to the present time as friend P., and do not wish to contend for non-essentials.

Lieut. P. enumerates the deserts of Sahara, in Africa, of Gobi, in China, the salt desert in Persia, besides numerous sandy plains in Tartary and Peru; and to these I add the deserts and saline plains in the western wilds of our own country, as bearing indisputable evidence of having been formerly submerged by the salty ocean, and covered with barren sand by the ocean's waves rolling over them during many ages. Again, he enumerates four great chains of mountains, extending across China and Russia, some of which are twenty thousand feet high, all of which he and all geologists suppose to have been heaved up from the bottom of aqueous deep. But does not Lieut. Porter perceive that the more of the supposed upheavals he enumerates the more he increases the difficulties and absurdities pointed out in my last article, under the doctrine of upheaval labor? I repeat a few of my former interrogatories. Are those deserts, islands, and mountains—yes, the two continents themselves—now supported by co-extensive arches, covering vast spaces of the same volume beneath them, or by solid matter? And, if by the latter, whence did this solid matter come, and how get under them, without causing a corresponding subsiding of the bottoms of oceans, seas, and lakes? Is it a fact that our planet becomes more and more bloated and vacuous every day, like an abandoned drunken man, in spite of the almost omnipotent law of gravitation? Is it not a fact that the earth, in its primeval state, was a fluid mass in consequence of intense heat, and that the materials of which it is composed condensed and consequently contracted when they lost or radiated heat? Is it not evident as day-light that the sinkings of the bottoms of oceans, seas, and lakes, and the earlier and more rapid condensation of the more solid matter composing the mountains, would produce precisely the same effects which friend Porter attributes to upheaval? Would it not leave temporary salt lakes, which would become fresh water so soon as the barriers separating them from the salt sea were broken down, and the salt water sufficiently diluted with fresh and carried off to the ocean; while some other lakes, which have a bottom of salt, drain a salt soil, like our own great salt lake, or have no surface or subterranean outlet, would remain salt?

Lieut. P. says the mountain chains in general "are nothing more than a multiplicity of cones;" and hence he would have us infer that they were raised by simultaneous or successive upheavals joined together. If this assertion could be substantiated, it would indeed furnish the only evidence he has yet adduced in favor of upheaval; but, with much difficulty, I beg leave to question it. Do the Alleghanies, the Whites, and many other mountains which, or the vicinages of which, furnish not the slightest evidence of volcanic action, consist of a succession of cones? I hardly think Lieut. P. will contend that they do in the almost, if not quite, total absence of conical peaks on their summits. It is true that, on the tops of the Andes, and some parts of the same chain, which is about seven thousand miles long, called the Rocky Mountains, we find volcanic cones, because on their summits have been and now are volcanoes. But is it not rather strange that these cones (if they are such, and are distinct to the bottom of those mountains) should be precisely in range for so great an extent? Why are they not scattered promiscuously over the country, as volcanic cones are in some parts of Oregon?

Lieut. Porter has not yet disputed that bodies receive, conduct, and radiate heat, corresponding in some proportion to their density. If any person doubt this fact, let him set his bare foot first on the porous earth and then on a stone, a piece of metal, or glass, both having been equally exposed to the sun's ardent rays, and then go into a cool cellar and repeat the same experiment. If the iron rail on a road were made to touch each other in cold weather, they would burst every tie to confine them in summer. Iron is converted into steel by exposing it to intense heat with charcoal, which has a stronger affinity for carbon than iron, and retains a great

of diminished size and hard as steel; but if this steel is repeatedly exposed to heat and suffered to cool slowly, it will retain a little more carbon every time it cools, and become soft iron again, and the bars will be larger than when they were steel. Even the stone of Bunker Hill Monument materially expand in a hot summer day on the side facing the sun, and contract again during the following night. Now, it is well known that a large proportion of the materials composing mountains consists of the most solid matter of our globe; and this solid matter consequently conducts and radiates heat with greater facility and rapidly than the less dense materials composing the strata of valleys and plains, and the more they radiate the more dense and rigid they become. But still, in defiance of these facts, and a thousand more bearing on the same point, Lieut. P. says "the condensation of the earth's surface cannot, by any facts, be substantiated." Now, I do contend for the condensation and consequent contraction not only of the surface, but of the whole volume of the earth as fast as it radiates its heat. Does Lieut. Porter dispute that the whole mass of the earth was once in a fluid state? If he does, he comes in collision with the most eminent geologists of every country. And how will he account for the spheroidal figure of the earth? But, if he admits her primeval fluidity, he necessarily admits her condensation and contraction also; for he cannot successfully dispute that all bodies expand with an increase and contract with a diminution of heat.

Again, Lieut. Porter says, truly, that "the great mass of the rocks is crumpled" (of the car by a supposition) "is thrown upwards and outwards, and set in assuming a horizontal position except on the surface. Nowhere do we find the debris of the mountains and islands, what vast now constitutes the ridges of the mountains stood firm; for then the edges of

the strata would lose the support of the substratum in proportion as they were remote from the middle ridges of the mountains, and must necessarily break. But how does this fact tally with Lieut. Porter's assertion that ranges of mountains "are nothing more than a multiplicity of cones?" If this were the fact, then every distinct cone would have its own distinct strata heaved upwards, and thrown from its centre outwards; that is, there would be conical strata dipping down from the centre, its apex, all round it. Will friend P. assert that this is the case, or deny the conclusion thus drawn from his own premises?

I do not assert that all the minute characteristics on our globe's surface owe their existence to its contraction. I admit the agency of disintegration, of running water, of earth-movements, &c.; but the influence or effects of all these, and of the latter in particular, is of comparatively small amount and extent when compared to the effects produced by those vast more potent interior, yet slow, quiet, and unobtrusive agent. All I contend for is, that the great cause of the outline of the present terrestrial surface, such as the subsiding of all great bodies of water, the existence of ranges of mountains, of volcanoes and earthquakes, of caverns and caves, of the natural bridges in Virginia and Alabama, &c. must be sought in something different from the doctrine of upheaval; and the condensation and consequent contraction of the earth will rationally account for all, while upheaval will not account for any of them.

Lieut. P. refers to various volcanic regions, which are generally located in mountainous countries that are frequently visited by earthquakes; and he traces a line of volcanoes through the Grecian Archipelago, Italy, Sicily, Spain, Portugal, and thence across the ocean to the Azores; but, though there is a succession of cones in this line widely separated, there is no chain of mountains. He next comes to earthquakes, and cites the upheaval of the coast around Valparaiso to the height of four feet in one night, and says subsequent examinations have shown that "the coast for upwards of a thousand miles had risen to this height." He also cites "the rising of the ancient Temple of Serapis and the adjacent ascent to a height of twenty-five feet." Now, to derive any support in favor of the general doctrine of upheavals of continents and mountains from these appearances, it is necessary to prove that they have really been produced by an upheaval of those coasts, instead of by a subsiding of the bottom of the ocean; and that some other region of the earth's surface has sunk proportionally, or admit that those coasts rest upon a vacuity equal in dimensions to the volume of the matter raised. But Lieut. P. has already stated that the ocean is and has been subsiding on the coasts of other countries where earthquakes and volcanoes are comparatively unknown, thus depriving himself of the argument that, because they now stand higher with regard to the ocean level than formerly, therefore they must have been upheaved. Have the last been upheaved without any sensible cause, while the former required the frightful agency of earthquakes? Earthquakes are no doubt by far the most potent cause producing extensive and sudden changes on the surface of our globe; and it requires no great stretch of credulity to admit that some part of that surface may be suddenly raised by this agency, while another part as suddenly subsides and forces the interior melted matter to the raised part. But this hypothesis is something very different from the upheaval of all islands, continents, and mountains on the globe, except those raised by zoophytes, which must, of course, be very low and level. Nor does this hypothesis nullify my theory at all, nor account for the existence of earthquakes themselves, as mine does. In confirmation of the hypothesis just mentioned, we may cite the sudden sinking of the localities of Port Royal, and the ancient Tyre and cities of the plain, the last now covered by the Dead Sea, in addition to those formerly stated.

As Lieut. Porter intimates a reluctance to pursuing this discussion, it may be proper to add a short summary of the present state of the question. Lieut. P. seems to assign the agency of the upheavals of mountains to volcanoes, and of the upheavals of coasts, continents, and islands (I presume) to earthquakes. But he has not attempted to show why earthquakes do not shake some mountains back into the abysses beneath them, as they have done some level plains; or how the water was filled up, if there are no vacuities beneath; nor has he tried to show how caves, caverns, and other familiar appearances are produced by upheavals. Neither has he assigned any agency either to volcanoes or earthquakes; and he has made only one assertion, namely, that "the idea of condensation of the earth's surface cannot by any facts be substantiated," neglecting to show that bodies do not condense when they radiate heat; that the earth radiates none, or, if she does radiate, that this radiation produces no effect upon her volume. On the other hand, he has made no effort to show that my theory is inconsistent with Nature's laws in any respect; that it will not account for the existence of earthquakes and volcanoes, of mountains and valleys, of oceans, seas, and lakes, and the subsidence of their watery surfaces; and, in fact, for every appearance in the great outline of the surface of our planet. Lieut. P. is not to be blamed for this neglect. With such an extensive store of facts and knowledge of Nature's laws as he possesses, he would have accomplished all this, if it could be done. He has done the best the case would admit; and

Who does all that can be done  
"Does well, that can only;  
"Angels could do no more."

About that cannon ball it is unnecessary to dispute, since whatever explanation is given to the appearance witnessed applies equally to the terrestrial globe. The phenomena of crystallization producing regular forms and organizations of individuals of the animal and vegetable kingdoms as well as of the mineral. It is owing to the polarity of atoms, or corpuscles, (if I may so call) and the condition most unfavorable to it is great and sudden reduction of heat, as in the formation of glass. The fragility of cast-iron is owing to its sudden cooling preventing a regular crystalline formation, and the impurities it retains. I am too stupid to understand, however, how Lieut. P.'s explanation militates against the contrariety of the earth, and still favors protuberances on her surface. He will not deny that the ball was larger while hot and diminished in size as it cooled.

Formation of ice: I have been trying to comprehend how my explanation would overturn Dr. Black's theory of latent heat; but really in this case also I am too dull of apprehension. When a child I used to look into the bottom of a tin canister covered with very small icicles, which presently rose in small aggregated masses, which, uniting, formed a solid covering on the surface, first along the bank and where the water ran slowest, because the water ran faster the attraction of small masses developing caloric melted the ice for a next winter. His experiment by exposing water in a glass (or other vessel) to frigorific mixtures furnished an illusory test; for glass is one of the best conductors of heat in Nature, and, being first cooled, conducts away the heat from the water in contact with it first, and freezes that part of the water first of course. In making experiments on Nature's laws, we must be very careful to imitate her in all respects, both as to time and all other attending circumstances. It is true that if ice first formed "at the bottom instead of on the surface of lakes and rivers," and remained there, "they would soon become solidified, and all the deleterious consequences pointed out by friend Porter would ensue; but I saw it rise in small masses and form a solid covering to keep warm the remaining water beneath; for ice is nearly as bad a conductor as air, being porous. To save room, I have given but a very cursory consideration to friend Porter's two objections last above mentioned.

A SARGASSO.—The ship Messenger, a whaling vessel which arrived at New Bedford on Monday from the Pacific ocean, reports that while at sea, on the 16th of December, in thirty-eight degrees of south latitude, longitude ninety-six degrees west from Greenwich, and eight hundred and fifty-eight miles from the coast of Chili, a tremendous and heaving of the water of a very fearful nature was experienced. It was about half past one in the morning, and the ship was running on her course with very pleasant weather. She was suddenly alarmed, says the captain, "by our ship's trembling and shaking awfully. For first thought I concluded we had brought up on an unknown reef, but found it was an earthquake of the water of a very fearful nature was experienced. We experienced three shocks, at intervals of about thirty seconds. The first was a heaving of the water upwards and outwards, and the second was a heaving of the water downwards and inwards. Now, this certainly would be the case, if it had once been a regular upheaval, and the valleys and plains sank down, while vast now constitutes the ridges of the mountains stood firm; for then the edges of

## POLITICAL CONDITION OF NAPLES.

MR. GLADSTONE'S PAMPHLET ON NAPLES.

FROM THE LONDON SPECTATOR.

Of all the events of this year, at home or abroad, one of the most striking is the publication of Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet on the State Prosecutions of Naples. If the mere announcement has caused such a demand as to call forth a second edition almost before the first was published, the perusal of it will excite a still greater sensation in this country, and, though for different reasons, on the continent. In this country it will create sentiments of surprise and horror. Although the general character of the statements is not new, they come before the world with an aspect wholly novel. From this pamphlet the cautious Englishman will learn with amazement that the charges of the Italian Patriots against the Government of Naples are not only true, but even fall short of the reality; that the case, stated with every conceivable precaution, not by a Pope or a Mazzini, but by a Gladstone—a leader of our own Conservative party, a man only too scrupulous and fastidiously exact—is stronger than they ever conceived it to be.

The very precautions that he uses to exclude every thing but his own main object—to avoid every thing like a cumulative case against Naples—give to his narrative an appalling force. The reader understands that he is pursuing only a part of the whole history against that iniquitous Government. Before stating the facts, Mr. Gladstone expressly sets aside any political or social questions, whether of logical relation or of legal right, arising out of the constitution; he treats that as a mere dream or fiction. He excludes the question of Sicily. He raises no political questions except those which are forced upon him by the details that he has to relate. He begins, as a member of the great Conservative party in Europe, with a bias in favor of established government. We need not tell our readers who Mr. Gladstone is; with what high constitutional feelings, with what disciplined reasoning, with what a deep sense of responsibility he must enter upon a statement of the kind—a statement deliberately received by a nobleman not less than himself distinguished for high-minded conservatism, Lord Aberdeen, Minister for Foreign Affairs in Sir Robert Peel's administration.

Such is the writer. He begins by contradicting the "general impression that the organization of the Governments of Southern Italy is defective; that the administration of justice is tainted with corruption; that instances of abuse or cruelty among subordinate public functionaries are not uncommon; and that political offences are punished with severity, and with no great regard to the forms of justice." This vague supposition has no relation to the actual truth of the Neapolitan case.

"It is not mere imperfection, nor corruption in low quarters, nor occasional severity, that I am about to describe. It is, in essence, systematic, deliberate violation of the law by the power appointed to watch over and maintain it. It is such violation of human and written law as this, carried on for the purpose of violating every other law, unwritten and eternal, human and divine; it is the wholesale persecution of virtue when united with intelligence, operating upon such a scale that entire classes may with truth be said to be its object, so that the Government is in bitter and cruel as well as utterly illegal hostility to whatever in the nation really lives and moves and forms the mainstay of practical progress and improvement; it is the awful profanation of public religion by its notorious alliance, in the governing power, with the violation of every moral law under the stimulus of fear and vengeance; it is the perfect prostitution of the judicial office, which has made it, under veils only too threadbare and transparent, the degraded repository of the vilest and clanniest forces of violating every other law, unwritten and eternal, human and divine; it is the wholesale persecution of virtue when united with intelligence, operating upon such a scale that entire classes may with truth be said to be its object, so that the Government is in bitter and cruel as well as utterly illegal hostility to whatever in the nation really lives and moves and forms the mainstay of practical progress and improvement; 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